GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2354
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2012
LOSSES DUE TO FOREST FIRES
Kashyap Shri Virender

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether loss of life and property and national property is caused due to forest fire every year in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof so far during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has implemented any scheme in some selected places to prevent forests from fire through 'modern forest fire control method';

(d) if so, the details of the draft of this scheme, the names of the States/places where this scheme has been implemented and the outcome of implementing the scheme so far; and

(e) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented in other States?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (b) There is no loss of life & property and national property caused due to forest fires as forest fires in the country are generally ground fire in which dried fallen material on the forest floor is burnt. The forest regenerates after rainfall subsequently.

(c) The Ministry is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Intensification of Forest Management' in which funds are provided to support the efforts of the States in forest protection including Forest Fire Control and Management.

(d) Under the scheme, activities like preparation and maintainance of firelines, construction of watch towers, construction of water storage structures and fire fighting equipments are covered. The funds allotted to States under the scheme for the last two years is at Annexure.

(e) The scheme has helped the State Forest Department in providing financial support for carrying out essential forestry activities, such as provisions for infrastructure, equipment and manpower to prevent and fight forest fires which help in reduction of forest fires.